

Docket No.: 50395-128

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

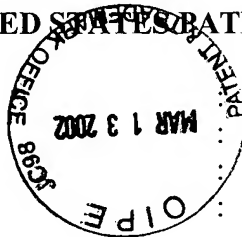
In re Application of

Takatoshi KATO, et al.

Serial No.: 10/026,445

Filed: December 27, 2001

For: OPTICAL FIBER SPLICING METHOD AND OPTICAL TRANSMISSION LINE



Group Art Unit: 2874

Examiner:

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

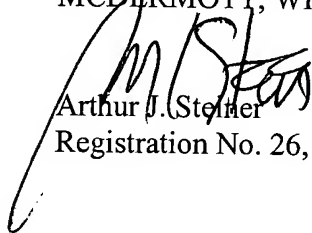
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

The relevance of each non-English language reference, if any, is discussed in the present specification.

Attached to each non-English language reference is an English Translation.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Date: March 13, 2002**